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Dear Friend,

I recently took a tour of B Reactor and it brought back many memories of bygone days. I came to work at Hanford in 1951, starting at the 300 Area in the Fuel Preparations Department. In a little more than two years, following the natural progression at that time, I went to the Reactor Operations Section in the 100 Areas.

I worked in Operations on the Supplemental Crew (sometimes called the "Shutdown Crew"), C Reactor and B Reactor as an operator. I also worked at B Reactor as a Reactor Specialist for a few years. The Reactor Specialist had the responsibility of the control room striving for maximum production in a safe and efficient manner. I have many fond memories of the reactors. In 1967 when they started closing them down I went to work on the FFTF Project.

There is a real story to be told here. It would be a mistake if the B Reactor building weren't made into a museum so the public could tour it and learn about the model T of nuclear reactors. The engineers did such a good job designing that with just a few modifications over the years the plutonium output was increased by more than ten fold, a level none of us thought was possible.

Not only was the reactor an engineering marvel, but the design and building of the coolant water supply needs to be addressed also. The water had to be pumped from the river, settled in the 182 basins, filtered in the 183 basins and pumped to high pressure in the 190 building for the reactor. There had to be backup water for emergencies so very large tanks were built into the 190 building as well as the high tanks by the side of the reactor. They were designing a system without a sure knowledge of what the requirements were. How could they know how much water was needed to cool a reactor when they didn't even know what a reactor was? And all of this came together in such a short period of time…and it worked.

This is the building that was a major contributor to shortening World War II. This is the building that helped preserve the peace during the cold war. This is the building that truly started the atomic age. This is the building that was copied by the Russians to start their nuclear programs (so I was told by a nuclear engineer many years ago). This is the building that caused the Tri-City area to be developed.

The Hanford Reach National Monument, Visitor Center and B Reactor Museum would really compliment each other. The Hanford Site will be here for many years. The present and future generations need this museum to help them understand what went on here at Hanford. It's too bad the other B Reactor complex buildings were removed, it would be even more impressive.

If something this historical doesn't qualify for a museum I can't imagine what would. I hope and pray you will do everything in your power to help this museum become a reality. It is needed.

*Sincerely,*

William McCullough